GALE & POLDEN'S MILITARY SERIES.

THE FURTHER TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT OF MOUNTED INFANTRY AND YEOMANRY

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL H. HALLAM PARR,

C.B., C.M.G.

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YEOMANRY.

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL HENRY HALLAM PARR,

C.B., C.M.G.,

AUTHOR OF "SKETCH OF THE KAFFIR AND ZULU WARS."

THIRD EDITION.

REVISED AND ENLARGED.

"Quant à la Troupe amphibie des Dragons, les avis seront éternellement partagés, ... mais en thèse générale, un brave à pied ou à cheval doit battre un poltron."—JOMINI.

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PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

As more and more attention is being drawn to the subject of Mounted Infantry, the writer trusts there may be some excuse for his attempting to supplement, by the following pages, the official text-book, in which is embodied the system of instruction carried on in an experimental corps under his command in South Africa in 1880-81.

As Mounted Infantry have frequently, in our small expeditions, to be hurriedly organized, these notes may assist Officers who find themselves entrusted with such a duty.

Many of the recommendations put forward have been practically tested on service.

THE FURTHER TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

OF

MOUNTED INFANTRY

AND

YEOMANRY.

INTRODUCTION.

The truth of the saying, that while the Principles of Strategy are immutable, Tactics change every ten years, has never been more clearly demonstrated than during the South African Campaign.

It is naturally of the last importance that we do not neglect the logical sequence—which is, that our system of troop training requires remodelling.

The South African War has done many things for the Nation: amongst others it has shown us, that free men fighting of their own free will and their own desire do not require to have their individuality reduced nearly to zero in order to obey.

Thus, while the modern soldier requires very careful training, it is not necessary or desirable that valuable

time shall be devoted to teaching him to learn discipline through his body, rather than through his brain.

It is to his brain that the instructor of the modern soldier (*pace* the drill-sergeant!) must address himself; and the keynote of the instruction must be the training and development of the intelligence and self-reliance of the man, as we impart to him the knowledge which will be essential to him in war-time.

With this training habits of discipline will march hand in hand, but as we require different results from him, so must we not train him in the way in which the soldier of a past decade was trained.

We have too long given undue prominence to the old 18th century theory (a theory sound indeed in its time) that a soldier's muscles must be governed by discipline, and once this is arrived at his brain necessarily follows suit.

It is the converse of what must guide us, and it is now time to admit that once a man's brain is dominated, his muscles will also do their best to obey.

Further, we have to teach a soldier so much that we have no time to practise that which can have no place in War.

The matter is more clearly brought home to us when we remember that our recruits are being drawn more and more entirely from the large towns, and require to be trained artificially in those qualities and in that knowledge which are possessed naturally by the Gamekeeper, the Mountaineer, the Herdsman, and the Shepherd—classes, alas! grown scarce and hardly represented in our ranks, which in the old times contained of them a useful leavening.

Again—military instruction has been forced to cling to old methods, and has been unable to advance with the times often because there was no other instruction possible.

In other words, an Officer was forced to teach his men on the barrack square or drill field, as he had nowhere else to go,—and the result was as detrimental to him as to his men.

The Nation has been contentedly shelving military questions for decades past, and amongst these has been shelved, from time to time, the vital one of natural training grounds being provided for soldiers to learn their work upon. So our men (gallant soldiers and hard fighters as they are, but still mostly town bred) went to war in 1899 with a nation of Hunters and Herdsmen, but poorly trained in fighting in natural country.

The South African War has at last made the Nation take its Army seriously, and we may hope that Reforms long withheld may now be carried out.

Sufficient space to train troops properly is one of the crying needs of the Army. Of this we have had sad and recent experience, and the Nation must hold itself responsible for having obliged brave and devoted troops to perfect themselves in the tactical use of ground on active service, and often under the most deadly and accurate fire of modern times.

No scheme of Army Reform will be complete without a comprehensive manœuvre act, in order to provide natural ground accessible to every armed unit.

Without proper arrangements being made for tactical work on natural ground *it is impossible for our troops to become efficient.*

The Nation must grasp the fact that the flat parade ground occupies the same position in the education of the soldier, as words of one syllable do in the education of the infant. Whether our Officers and men have, in the grouped fire-units of the modern battlefield, to meet the magazine rifle of the European soldier, or, in the closer formation of "shoulder to shoulder," to face the spear of the Asiatic fanatic or the gallant Soudan warrior, to become efficient they require practice on natural ground, and to deny this to them in these days is as unfair and as unjust as to keep them armed with a muzzle-loading rifle.

Our tactics—the handling of British troops in war—have again and again of late years and more recently been severely criticised, and sometimes justly; but when the country deplores the loss of brave men let those who cast blame on Commanders consider how difficult it is for Officers in Command to handle or dispose their troops satisfactorily on service when unused, except at long intervals, to anything but the drill field. Is it thought drill-field practice alone will aid them much, or enable their subordinates in their turn to intelligently carry out their orders, and take due advantage of the ground to be occupied or passed over?

Some years ago the present writer was attending the French manœuvres, and on one of the days of battle saw the whole of the Artillery of an Army Corps (some 90 guns) crash through the ripe vines on a hillside to gain an artillery position.

The damage done in ten minutes must have been very great, yet no one seemed to think it anything

out of the common, except, perhaps, the poor old proprietor, who, having witnessed the guns and teams gallop past him working destruction, came up to the writer (then harmlessly threading his way at a walk between two rows of already crushed vines), and with tears in his eyes and voice murmured, "*Ménagez-vous un peu, mon bon 'Mossieu,' voyez donc mes pauvres vignes.*"

Such reckless waste as above depicted is certainly not to be commended, yet does the incident furnish a moral!

The French people, as a whole, feel that their existence as a first-class Power—each peasant realises that the safety of his *petit chez soi*—depends upon the Army; this fact has been rudely enough brought home to them—therefore the Nation demands an efficient Army and counts the cost afterwards.

For us English it is hard to realise there is any danger in the state of inefficiency and unreadiness of our Army, and up to now we have haggled over the Army Estimates and postponed efficiency. On this particular point (as regards manœuvres), up to the awakening of the Empire in 1899, the mass of Englishmen did not care if the troops in English garrisons did not leave a flat parade ground from year's end to year's end; as, indeed, at many stations they did not.

Each district should have its manœuvre ground—a natural piece of country, over which manœuvre rights have been acquired, to be reached by train, if necessary, so many times a month. Further, every General in Command, whether in the United Kingdom

or in the Colonies, should be bound to carry out yearly so many days' combined manœuvres, and, if possible, on strange ground. By his manœuvre report, his own and his Command's value and state of efficiency should be, to a considerable extent, gauged. Inspections by higher authority should take place when practicable during annual manœuvres, so that a General's troops may be seen as nearly as practicable under the conditions of active service.

The manœuvre schemes will differ according to locality, as, for instance, at Mediterranean stations they now take sometimes the form of speedy embarkations or hostile landings.

At any rate something practical and useful, as preparation for war, will be practised each year.

The money (we should have to spend thousands where we now spend hundreds or tens) would not be the worst spent in the Military Budget.

CHAPTER I.

EMPLOYMENT AND DUTIES.

"*Quant à la Troupe Amphibie des Dragons les avis seront éternellement partagés.*"

The above motto was chosen some years ago for the First Edition of this work, and although it is perhaps not so appropriate now, in those days it was singularly apposite.

Even in 1880, after the Brunkhorst Spruit affair in the Transvaal, when the defencelessness of Infantry acting alone against a mobile foe had been terribly demonstrated, the feeling against Mounted Infantry was as strong as ever.

Infantry Officers inveighed against the policy of splitting up battalions, and Cavalry Officers (many of whom in those days regarded the Cavalry firearm chiefly as an awkward weight to allow for, on the off-side of the troop horse) wanted to know what Mounted Infantry could do that Cavalry could not.

I remember that the Commanding Officer of one of the battalions ordered to furnish companies to the Mounted Infantry Corps which I was commanding, was so furious at the order, that he just marched the leading company of the battalion off parade as it stood, and sent it to me.

I was in no wise loth to receive it, and, if my memory serves me, only returned him five men—one was a drunkard, one a ne'er-do-weel, another was ruptured, and two only were sent back because they could not learn to ride.

All of the remainder were turned into good Mounted Infantrymen, including the Colour-Sergeant of 13 years' service, to whom the saddle had up to then been a *terra incognita*, but who managed to get his thighs flat and lead his section at a gallop, and over ditch and bank, rifle in hand, as well as could be desired.

It is pleasant for the constant believers and advocates of Mounted Infantry to see it now recognised and placed in its proper position, but it is to be hoped that there will be no effort either to interfere with the Cavalry arm or to create a special one—we can easily get it into a sound position as regards Mounted Infantry if we continue to take advantage of the remarkable liking and aptitude of the British Infantryman for mounted work.

As will be shown farther on we must take steps to ensure that a sufficiency of carefully trained Mounted Infantry exist, and that wherever there is a battalion of the British Line there will be a proportion of efficient Sharpshooters, either mounted or ready for their mounts or conveyances.

Amongst the many lessons the South African War has taught is that of how to rate mobility in troops at its true value.

At the end of 1899 we were watching the most efficient and, as a whole, the best trained Army that ever left British shores paralysed and unable to cope with its enemy, on account of its being so slow moving and so immobile.

We have now learnt what masses of mobile troops can do, and it is hoped we shall apply the lesson.

Before the present war, Mounted Infantry was, more perhaps in theory than in practice, considered to be a valuable adjunct to a Commander's strength; the South African War has shown Commanders its value, and in future the Mounted Infantryman will be considered indispensable, and it will be probably found necessary to train a hundred men where ten men were, before the war, held to be sufficient.

In our smaller campaigns, in the Zulu, Egyptian and Soudan Expeditions, the duties of Mounted Infantry have mostly been those of scouting, patrolling, etc., thus supplementing the Cavalry available to the hand of the General in Command.

While Mounted Infantry must be trained in such duties so as to assist the Cavalry when required, and so as to be able to take care of itself when acting independently, these are not its functions in European warfare or in operations on a large scale.

The most important uses of Mounted Infantry are:—

1. To accompany the Cavalry in rapid movements, in order to seize positions, or threaten or attack flanks or communications; and to act with Cavalry in pursuit.

2. To reinforce rapidly, and at a critical moment, Infantry who are overtasked, or who have succeeded in gaining some vantage ground in the general line of the attack, and who require assistance to make good their footing.

3. To overtake a retreating enemy and force him to turn and fight.

4. To enable a Commander to disengage his Infantry from action.

When Mounted Infantry is organized on a proper scale, it will be on many occasions practicable to do without any Infantry in the advance guard. Such a course would add very much to the mobility and handiness of the advance guard, while the wear and tear spared to the Infantry would be considerable.

The advance guard of an Army Corps with (in addition to the usual amount of Cavalry and Artillery*) three battalions Mounted Infantry with machine guns would be able, under ordinary circumstances, to sweep away the enemy in front, or to hold on to a position until reinforcements arrived; and (being composed of mounted men only) would be better able to disengage itself from an undesirable combat, and to avoid being seriously compromised.

It may sometimes happen that the corps of Mounted Infantry may be, at the end of a day's march, the freshest troops available for outpost duty. There may have been no fighting, and all the scouting may have been performed by the Cavalry, and while the Infantry have been on their legs the livelong day, the Mounted Infantry have had only a pleasant ride with the guns of the advance guard. They would therefore be detailed for the most remote outposts (and thus save the Infantry a weary trudge); their horses, except a few for orderly duty, would be taken back to bivouac or quarters by the numbers three, in charge of a proportion of Officers and sergeants.

* Say nine Squadrons and two batteries Horse Artillery.

CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION.

The South African War, '99-00, has shown clearly that the modest proportions of Mounted Infantry Organization, which have hitherto been considered sufficient in the British Army, will no longer suffice for the requirements of modern warfare.

A much more generous system is necessary, and it will be probably necessary to experiment in one or more directions.

Some are of opinion that the time has come to form Regular Mounted Infantry Regiments, and are inclined to regard any proposals short of this as makeshifts, and to point to the unsatisfactory riding and horse management in some of the Mounted Infantry units during the South African War as a proof that the present system is faulty.

But it must be remembered that our Infantry battalions are constantly moving round the world. In no place can we say, then, we shall never want mounted men; further, we must have our battalions positively interchangeable, and not have to consider whether they are mounted or dismounted battalions, and we must not complicate the already very complicated Relief Roster of the British Service.

Moreover this formation of Mounted Infantry Corps would tend towards the creation of a special arm

which we must take care to avoid. Recent events must not make us forget that Mounted Infantry are to be Infantrymen on horseback.

But certainly it is necessary that there should be always a sufficient supply of properly trained Mounted Infantry.

It may be said that from one-tenth to one-eighth of our Regular Infantry should be trained as Mounted Infantry.

It seems to the writer that it would be well to regard one company of each battalion as a Mounted Infantry company.

This should not mean that this company should travel about with horses and saddlery, but it *would* mean that the Officers and men of the companies would be selected and trained for mounted work, that breeches, putties or gaiters, bandoliers, and spurs —in short, personal equipment and clothing should be in possession of the unit and ready for issue.

At stations where there was ground for mounted troops, the Mounted Infantry company of a battalion would take over the horses and saddlery of the battalion which they relieved on arrival at their new quarters.

Thus Z battalion at Aldershot would be ordered to Natal, its place at Aldershot being taken by X battalion from Dover. Z battalion hands over horses and equipment to X battalion, who mounts its Mounted Infantry company. Z battalion finds its horses waiting for it in Natal, which it takes over from Y battalion, which dismounts its Mounted Infantry company on proceeding to Bermuda.

At Aldershot, Salisbury Plain, The Curragh, Shorncliffe, and certain other stations where ground is available for mounted troops, one company of each Infantry battalion should be mounted.

The companies should be formed into a corps, with a trained staff for instructional purposes when practicable, and a careful synopsis and course of instruction should be drawn up.

It must be admitted that this proposal would cause serious expenditure for barrack accommodation and stabling, but if the matter is duly weighed the expenditure, in the writer's opinion, is justified by the experiences of the recent mobilization and the efforts to provide a sufficient number of mounted men for the South African War—which resulted in many cases in men, who could scarcely climb into the saddle and horses, many of whom had hardly been backed and handled, embarking in company together for active service as Mounted Infantry.

This courting of disaster should not occur again.

We have seen that the old saying, that tactics change every ten years, still holds good. This is the decade of the Cavalryman, the "Dragoon," and the galloping gun; let us prepare for it.

With regard to a Mounted Infantry force available for home defence, there are signs that the Yeomanry will not much longer resist the change (which has long been desired) of the force into Mounted Infantry. It is hoped that Yeomanry Commanding Officers will endeavour to realise that the question is by no means an academic one, but that the training of Cavalry and Mounted Infantry or Mounted Riflemen differs at

every step. While Cavalry is the most difficult arm to train without large expenditure of time on both horses and men, Mounted Infantry is an arm more easily instructed, and admirably adapted to men who are accustomed to horses and have a liking for outdoor pursuits.

Yeomanry Cavalry can, at the best, be but indifferent Cavalry when judged by a European standard. As swordsmen, Yeomen cannot command respect—although the force may contain here and there fine "blades"—and the "charge" of partially trained men on partially trained horses must be always wanting in cohesion. Yet while the Yeomanry is Cavalry, on both these parts of a Cavalryman's training must much precious time be wasted, which, once the Yeoman is a Mounted Infantryman, would be occupied in scouting and shooting.

The picturesque full dress possessed by many Yeomanry corps could, where desired, be retained, although it is a serious tax on the sources of men of moderate means; but the men's swords should disappear, and a bayonet or sword-bayonet should be substituted for it, and a Yeoman should, whatever he is called, accept the training and tactics of the Mounted Rifleman.

A well-organized force of Mounted Infantry, with a due proportion of machine guns, is what the Nation should aim at for the Yeomanry.

It may now be pointed out that the inspection of the Yeomanry should always remain in the hands of the Inspector-General of Cavalry, so as to ensure a proper standard of mounted and tactical efficiency.

It would be well if the isolated Volunteer companies of Mounted Infantry could be merged, where practicable, into corps of Yeomanry. Small companies of Mounted Infantry are hard to inspect and difficult to keep up to a fixed standard of efficiency.

The state of Ireland is so different from what it was 20 years ago; may we not hope that it may be before long considered possible to make use of the fine material for mounted men to form corps of yeomen Mounted Infantry, ready to our hand in Ireland?

Yeomanry corps should, whenever practicable, train in the neighbourhood to which the corps would be sent on mobilization, and part of the inspection should be a test of the knowledge of the surrounding country.

The organization of Mounted Infantry is by companies, sections, and sub-sections. This last meaningless word should be changed for the word "group," a word understood in English military parlance, and less likely to be confused with sections. Moreover, "sub-section" in the Infantry has a different meaning.

It is of great importance that the group or sub-section organization should be developed and insisted upon.

For each group of four men a group-leader should be chosen. The Commandant should, if possible, give the group leaders lance stripes.

This group organization provides a lance-corporal and three privates for any mounted duty; and three men, or a lance-corporal and two men, for dismounted duty, with the fourth man in camp or barracks to see to the horses of the group.

One of the reasons the horses of the Horse and

Field Artillery are so well looked after on service is that the unit of responsibility is such a small one, the "numbers one" of sub-divisions or guns being responsible to the subalterns of sections for the work. Thus there are no horses of absentees, or prisoners, or non-commissioned officers forgotten and overlooked in their watering, feeding, grooming, or what not.

The same argument holds good with the group organization. Any man of a group will do the best he can for his comrades' horses, even if the group leader, who is directly responsible for the work, is absent.

The group organization should always be adhered to when practicable.

The men composing a group get to understand and trust each other, and acquire an immense deal of confidence and *aplomb* in facing and dealing with difficulties.

Soldiers pick up knowledge one from another very readily, and talk together a great deal about what their officers tell and teach them. Train your group-leaders carefully, and most of what you teach them will filter into their Groups.

In Egypt the group-leaders were armed with a revolver in addition to their rifle; and though an indiscriminate issue of this weapon is to be deprecated with young soldiers, who are likely to "draw" and damage each other more than the enemy, it proved of use on several occasions. The privilege to carry this was much valued, as marking the picked men of the corps.

It is a good plan to let the group-leaders pick their

men, subject to the section commander's sanction and company commander's approval. This makes men more contented and easier to manage.

The group or sub-section leader, then, should be held, to a legitimate extent, responsible for the Group—held responsible for its behaviour, its horses, its saddlery, etc., being bound to report anything wrong, whether it is one of his horses has lost a shoe, or the absence of one of his men. Thus on parade there should be no calling the roll; the quickest way for proving the section is—

"Leaders, answer for your groups! No. 1?"
"Present, sir," etc.*

These are trifles, but they all tend to developing the responsibility of the group-leaders, and enabling the officers and sergeants to work through them at the men—whether in order to make a lazy man "soldier" better, or an unsteady one keep out of trouble.

* No other proving should, by the way, be permitted—such as "flanks of fours," etc. It is cumbrous and a waste of time.

CHAPTER III.

TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION.

In Mounted Infantry exceptional intelligence and nerve are required from the sergeants and rank and file. In order to develop these qualities, officers must be especially careful to take the instruction of their men entirely into their own hands.

Not only is this essential in order that men shall be properly and intelligently taught, but it is also necessary in order to give the Officers that touch and hold over their men, only to be acquired by their knowing intimately their capabilities and characters, which knowledge is thus easily and surely attained. Such a course also leads the men to trust and understand their Officers, and when in difficulties to have confidence in the capacity of their Officers "to see them through."

The foregoing paragraphs may seem truisms. Who will teach the men, if their Officers do not? That some Officers will teach the men, goes without saying. What is wanted, however, is that *the* Officer who commands the tactical unit teaches the men he is to lead.

As a rule there should be no Adjutant with Mounted Infantry; an Orderly Officer is generally sufficient. The corps sergeant-major should look after the "duties," and keep his eyes open as to the conduct and discipline of the sergeants and rank and file; but he should not meddle with the instruction

of the men. If a second Officer is required to assist the Commandant of the Corps in the training and instruction of the corps, he should be a "Second in Command."

If the corps is of sufficient size to demand an Adjutant as well, the Adjutant's work should be confined to the orderly-room, provost duties, and A.D.C.'s work. But the vicious system peculiar to, and for long the bane of, the British Army, of a junior Officer instructing men who do not belong to his squadron, battery, or company, and interfering with the Captain's responsibilities, should not be permitted.*

Any special instruction necessary to be imparted to Officers or men must be carried out either by the Officer Commanding or the Second in Command.

In Mounted Infantry mounted on horses, as a rule, no Cavalry sergeants should be allowed, useful as they may be in teaching stable management and stable discipline. It is an admission that the Officers cannot teach their own non-commissioned officers. It is far preferable to send either Officers and selected sergeants through a short course with a Cavalry regiment—to learn stable discipline and routine, fitting saddlery, etc.—than to admit the employment of Cavalry instructors. In some cases, when there are a number of unbacked or young remounts, or queer-tempered horses, the services of one or more rough riders may be required.

*These paragraphs are now happily almost unnecessary and obsolete, but they are left in the text, lest there may in some corps yet remain the relics of a system which for so many decades condemned the squadron and company leader to a position of irresponsibility and ignorance, and cut him off from power and influence over his men.

It is often a source of perplexity to Cavalry Officers and non-commissioned officers (when it falls to their lot to train Mounted Infantry) to know what to insist upon in the mounted work which they have to teach.

The Cavalryman's training, as regards drill, has for its aim the placing of the squadron in line, the Cavalry formation of attack—to this, *in the Cavalry*, everything must be subordinated. Therefore, sound squadron-leading—correct, accurate intervals and distances—and careful dressing must be constantly inculcated and insisted upon. Squadron and troop-leaders must be checked if their alignment is not true and accurate. Men must be cautioned to square their horses, and keep their 6-in. intervals from knee to knee.

When, however, we have to train the Mounted Infantryman, all this must be not only neglected, but *forbidden*. The Mounted Infantryman should not, as a rule, form line unless to dismount, and then not necessarily.

The more room he takes in the ranks (having due regard to other troops) the better.

The formation of a Mounted Infantry company, when drilling or at manœuvres, should be generally "section columns" (*i.e.*, the word of command to a Mounted Infantry company standing in line would be "Company will advance—Groups—right, heads of sections, left—wheel"). The Company Commander should name a "section of direction" near which he will, perhaps, ride. The section leaders should lead their sections, watching the company leader and the "section of direction."

So long as the section leaders take plenty of room, the Instructor should give them a free hand to get over the ground the best way they can.

A defile (a gate?) may force the company into column of route; the section leaders must resume their position in column of sections without directions, the Company Commander seeing that, if necessary, the pace of the directing company is moderated.

Words of command should be few and far between, but everything, as far as is practicable, should be done by signal.

Where smartness is required is in the mount and dismount, *especially "the dismount, for dismounted duty."* This should be performed with the same smartness as when "action front" is given to a battery of Artillery. Indeed, I should abolish the present cumbrous word of command, and instead of "For dismounted duty, dismount," should make it "*Action front*," "Dismount," "Action, right or left," "Dismount." The words "Front," "Right," "Left," or "Rear" show in which direction the groups are to double out after dismounting. At drill the "Dismount for dismounted duty" cannot be practised too often, and from all sorts of formations.

Properly trained Mounted Infantry can be exceedingly expert in getting on and off their horses, and the horses become, with practice, extraordinarily handy, and easy to lead about in groups.

As far as "*drill*" is concerned, it is the following points in which the Mounted Infantry leader may take a pride in being "smart."

A. The rapidity with which he can get his men

from their horses and into the "ready" position, having taken advantage of any cover handy.

B. The satisfactory handling of his led horses, and their being well placed, well concealed, and well guarded.

C. The smoothness and ease (*i.e.*, without fuss and shouting) with which he can move his mounted men about in small columns.

The entire training must be thoroughly practical; therefore no riding instruction as merely riding instruction, no musketry instruction as merely musketry instruction, should be permitted, although the man should be always at work at his horse and his rifle.

The strength of Mounted Infantry is their strength dismounted, and moved from their horses or their means of conveyance. Every effort must therefore be used to decrease the horse-holders and increase the number of rifles.

This cannot be too much insisted on. Nothing can be more discouraging than to see the small number of rifles an apparently strong body of Mounted Infantry is able to dispose of.

Mounted Infantry are, by regulation, supposed to dismount and place in fighting line three-quarters of the rank and file (that is, 60 out of a company of 80 rank and file, 450 out of a corps of 600, in the latter case leaving 150 rifles unemployed). Were this proportion, however, never exceeded, Mounted Infantry would be a very expensive article.

In practice it is found that horses soon get docile and quiet together, and a very few days' hard work will bring horses to look upon the signal for dis-

mounted duty with satisfaction, and they will remain quietly standing in the ranks, linked or ringed, for hours in charge of one horse-holder per section.*

I am referring here to geldings and mares; stallions are most objectionable on account of their pugnacious qualities, thus requiring more horse-holders. It is therefore a matter of great importance that, when practicable, geldings and mares should always be obtained for Mounted Infantry. This point is to be judged on different grounds than when considering the comparative merits of stallions and geldings for mounting Cavalry.

Few who have commanded Mounted Infantry in action but have turned with envious eyes to their horse-holders, and devised schemes for getting more of them into the fighting line.

With stallions more rifles are lost to the front than with geldings; and as a Mounted Infantryman is useless in action while mounted, and while his work only begins when he dismounts, this is an important point. It becomes a serious matter when four or five fighting stallions in each company necessitate the withdrawal of so many rifles to keep them from spreading disorder and insubordination amongst the company horses.

It must never be forgotten that it is waste of time training men as Mounted Infantry who cannot shoot; and to keep up men's shooting they must have plenty of practice. The more rounds men expend the better they shoot; and they must keep up their shooting all

* There should be a certain number of hobbles per company, to be carried by men riding restless horses or kickers.

the year round, irrespective of the annual course, if they are to keep up to a really high standard of "sharp shooting."

No man should be suffered to join the Mounted Infantry company of a battalion who is not a first class shot, or gives fair promise of becoming one.

His company Officer must then try to turn him into a finished rifle shot.

Constant practice in the Morris tube gallery or Miniature Range to teach him to throw his rifle up to his shoulder and catch his sights rapidly, and plenty of work, if possible, away from the ranges *at unknown distances*, at surprise and moving targets, should be given the Mounted Infantryman in order to bring his shooting up to a proper standard.

Attention must also be paid to judging distance, training and to improving the man's eyesight by making him use his eyes at extreme ranges and at distant objects. The section leaders must know the best-sighted and the worst-sighted men in their sections, and know whom to pick out for a job wanting a keen and far-sighted scout.

Thus, instruction in picking up objects at long ranges with and without glasses must be given to both officers and men. It will be found great improvement in efficiency in this particular line will be the result. Eyesight requires to be trained and developed as much as the other physical powers of the soldier.

Those who have seen a Boer jump off his pony, jerk the rein over the animal's head as a sign that he is not to move, and take a shot at a buck (sometimes if he wants to show off) 500 or 600 yards off *with a*

Martini without raising his backsight, will possess in his mind's eye a desirable standard in shooting and in judging distance for our Mounted Infantry.

Rapid and energetic opening of independent fire must be taught. The fire discipline of British Infantry has been such that fault could rarely be found with the men for getting out of hand, but it was often remarked that troops would not open fire smartly enough. The South African War has already made a change for the better in this direction.

Care must be taken that, if any proportion of the corps is armed with a pistol or with a revolver, it is thoroughly expert in the use of this arm. The heavy pistol or revolver is, when properly used, a most formidable weapon at close quarters.

There are some American Generals who hold still that Cavalry armed with the revolver can hold its own against Cavalry armed with sword and lance. The Cavalry, however, in the American war was very raw and untrained, and the experience of the Cavalry engagements gained at this time was very misleading. Be that as it may, no man ought to carry a weapon of which he is not the master; and Mounted Infantry who can hold their revolvers straight would be able to extricate themselves from an awkward position, where men shooting at random would be helpless.

Further, in the light of the recent experiences of the South African War, and judging by the gallant, effective, and often tactically sound charges made by the mounted troops armed only with the rifle, both on our side and on the side of the Boers, it is, I think, advisable

that a Mounted Infantryman should carry a revolver *if* he can be effectively trained in its use.

The weapon is so dangerous that it should not be issued indiscriminately, but should be carried only by those who have been carefully trained to use it. In extremities and on special occasions, when a sudden attack or counter-attack mounted is at all hazards demanded by the situation, the Officers, non-commissioned officers, and group-leaders and scouts being armed with a weapon for use at close quarters, would be an important addition to fighting power.

It may be here remarked that once a horse is broken to firing off his back, it should be spared him as much as is practicable. Horses' ears are very delicate, and if a discharge once hurts the ear-drum of a horse he is often unsteady ever afterwards, not because he is frightened, but because he dislikes the concussion to his ears.

Although to Cavalry falls the responsibility for the safety of a mixed force, yet every soldier should be able to look after his own and his comrades' safety. Moreover, Mounted Infantry may at any moment be called upon to take up, temporarily, Cavalry duties and scouting.

Therefore, in each section of Mounted Infantry there should be one or two groups specially trained in scouting.

Every man must be trained in reporting what he sees; signalling by conventional signs; in short, in the rudiments of scouting. But men who show an aptitude for the work and are specially intelligent should receive special theoretical and practical instruction in scouting and a scout's duties. A picked Officer of the company should take such men in

hand, and instruct them indoors and in the field. Major-General Baden-Powell's now well-known book will give ideas for the system of instruction. It is but few men who learn to be clever scouts, and it is necessary to have available dependable men, who are known to have attained a certain standard of efficiency in the work, and who can be employed in anxious times or upon difficult jobs.

It has been said above that there should be no riding instruction merely as riding instruction. The best time for improving the men's riding is on the way to the drill or manœuvre ground.

After the corps have moved off, the company leaders should let their companies pass and repass them, to see how the horses look, and how the men are riding, to show them how to correct their seat, manner of holding their reins, position of their hands, etc. The company leader should speak to any man who is in difficulties with his horse, and in need of advice how to handle him, and find out from him what is the matter, *without necessarily finding fault.* The Officer should speak so that the men near can hear him, and can also, if need be, profit by his advice and example.

A five minutes' halt and dismount should be made ten or fifteen minutes after leaving stables. This should *never* be omitted, as it is a great comfort to men and horses. One man has been late turning out, and his accoutrements are not comfortable; another has had to take a different horse, and his leathers do not suit him; some of the horses want to stale, etc.

In a dry climate the weather has not to be taken much into consideration as to outdoor work, but in England this is a serious question, as it is likely to interfere greatly with the work. Rain, unless very heavy and combined with violent wind, must not be permitted to interfere with work. Drill and work in rain, when there are warm barracks to return to and dry clothes to put on, will do no one any harm. Any Officer and man who cannot stand such exposure had better return to his corps. But men should always be permitted to turn out for work in old clothes. It is not the weather men mind; it is destroying their clothes, and the thought that, perhaps owing to the rain and mud, they will get "put down" for a new frock or pants.

This, it may be remarked, is the cause of a considerable amount of discontent in the English Army; and it should be always recognised in all branches of the Service, that for work likely to destroy men's clothing, such as musketry, manœuvres, field-works, etc., patched and worn clothing be permitted. Some phrase in orders detailing the parade, such as "fatigue" or "manœuvre clothing," would indicate what dress was to be worn.

A great deal of petty crime, and of discontent, which perhaps does not get further than the squadron or battery sergeant-majors, or colour-sergeants, would be thereby done away with.

In training Mounted Infantry a great deal of work is demanded from the horses. It must be remembered, however, it is *the pace that kills*, and that, even taking into consideration the inferior quality of the horses on which Mounted Infantry are mounted, the

pace is much slower and less damaging than that at which Cavalry manœuvre. Also, while the work is proceeding, the horses are often standing dismounted and therefore resting.

The secret is to look carefully after the delicate horses. There are numbers of cheerful, hearty animals, who take the rough with the smooth and give no one a moment's anxiety. But the anxious and nervous horse, the delicate feeder—these are the ones which require the "master's eye."

It is a great point to get such horses cool to stable. A horse's discomfort is great when he has fretted all the way home, having exhausted the patience of his rider, with disagreeable results to himself, and when he arrives at stables sweating bodily and worried mentally.

Such horses should be dismounted a certain distance from home and led—horses rarely fret leading; indeed, after manœuvres or quick drill, nothing will so shorten the work, after return to stables, as dismounting the corps and leading the last twenty minutes or half-an-hour of the way home, say for the last mile or mile and a half.

CHAPTER IV.

MANŒUVRES AND ACTIVE SERVICE.

Exercises and manœuvres should (it goes without saying) be as practical and as realistic as possible.

While manœuvring, scouts—both for examining the ground and for reconnoitring—should be *always* out, so as to accustom Officers *never to be without them*, and to teach men the duties required of them when acting as scouts or flankers to a rapidly moving force. It may be remarked that the usual fault of our scouts and flankers is that they remain too near the troops they are working for. This fault may be traced to the very restricted amount of ground available for manœuvres on which our mounted troops have to learn their work.

When halting, for no matter how short a time, scouts should always be sent out in order to impress upon every Officer, non-commissioned officer and man the necessity of making themselves "*safe*."

Moreover, special men must be detailed to watch the scouts and look out for their signals. This is constantly neglected, and therefore the scouts are practically out of touch with the body for whom they are looking out.

As Mounted Infantry has most to dread from a sudden attack from Cavalry, Officers and men should be practised in preparing for and meeting sudden Cavalry attacks or surprises.

A company should be detailed to simulate Cavalry; and as a sign that it should be regarded as such, a few ordinary lance-pennons might be attached to the muzzles of the rifles.

The Commandant or other Officer, as umpire, should be on the ground to decide whether the Cavalry fairly surprised the Mounted Infantry and could have charged home, or whether the Mounted Infantry could have had time to have escaped to broken ground, or to repel the attack on foot.

Mounted Infantry caught by Cavalry in the saddle, or before it has had time to dismount and to open an effective fire, should, of course, be put out of action.

In practising outpost duty an enemy should be represented, who should try and break through the line of vedettes.

In practising the attack two companies should work against each other—one on the defensive, and one on the offensive.

Again, a company may be sent to march a few miles out from quarters, and, without giving notice, a second company warned unexpectedly to try and surprise the first on its march home.

There is another practice which will be found of considerable use in order to train men to deal with an enemy like the Zulus or Soudanese, who intend coming to close quarters, and develop their attack almost as quickly as mounted men. Direct an enemy to advance, without firing, at a slow trot, or trot and walk, against a company or corps, which should have orders to retire before the enemy, taking care always to keep him under fire. The enemy should not be

permitted to be distant over 700 yards or under 200 yards.

The above should also be practised with the enemy retiring.

This practice should be always practised with blank ammunition, and one company should often perform it against another, points being deducted for exceeding the 700 yards, or for letting the supposed enemy get within 200 yards, and also for the time when the enemy *was not* under fire.

In practising any scheme or tactical exercise, do not hurry over your instructions as to the objects to be gained, and the manner in which the work is to be carried out. It is absolutely necessary that a company leader should clearly understand and make clear to each Officer, sergeant, and group leader the intentions of the Commander. This alone will insure intelligent work on the part of his subordinates. (It is to be remembered that on active service your corps may be, or assumed to be, out of fire, or at any rate under fair shelter, before the Attack commences). A scheme in writing should always, when practicable, be given, and every care taken that the men understand what is being done—as well as the Officers and non-commissioned officers.

Make sure that you, on your side, have given sufficient instructions (although without burdening your Officers' memories, and fettering their initiative by too much detail); and that your Officers, on their side, understand what is required of them.

Thus will be avoided, in peace time, the mistakes, the galloping about, and the shouting consequent on

badly delivered and partially understood instructions; and, in war time, far more serious complications.

If serious mistakes are made, and movements carried out badly, do not send orderlies and messengers all over the ground with vehemently-worded messages. Sound the "Halt," and explain the mistakes and recommence. You will thus learn *why* the mistakes were made—a valuable piece of knowledge; and there is the chance that you will discover that they were committed owing to some instruction intended by you to be taken in one way, but received in another.

The Attack should be practised as in the Infantry; but the advantage their horses give Mounted Infantry in getting rapidly over the ground passed over by Infantry during the first stage of the Attack (say from 2,000 to 1,000 yards from the enemy's position) should not be forgotten.

Company leaders should practise taking up their companies to the position the horses are to be left at in different methods; for instance, sometimes by taking up a company, in column of sections, or column of route (by serpentining along, according to the folds of the ground, cover may be gained the whole distance). Another time another formation must be adopted, and the company leader order the section leaders to take their men across to where the horses are to be left at as fast a gallop as possible, and in extended formation; perhaps, even if the fire is heavy, in "running the gauntlet" formation and man by man. If no suitable cover to shelter the horses can be found, the horses must be sent back at a gallop. From the point where the dismount (which in this case will

be ordered at a greater distance from the enemy's position) takes place, care must be taken that the horses are, if possible, retired *obliquely* to the rear, and with plenty of interval between different groups.

The individuality of company leaders should be brought out as much as possible during the practice of the Attack.

They must understand that all the instruction they can expect from their immediate commander is the general purpose and aim of the Attack and his own objective (*i.e.*, the object on which he is to direct his men).

For the rest the company leaders are responsible. The control of the fire, the way of working that part of the ground allotted to their unit, rests with them.

The behaviour of company and section leaders should be closely watched at Manœuvres and Field-firing, to see whether they show resolute initiative in command, yet without too much fettering the group-leaders' and the mens' individuality.

It should be remembered that with young soldiers, perhaps under fire for the first time, the Officer's voice has a most steadying effect.

Many young soldiers are inclined to be unsteady not because they are afraid, but because their mental balance is rather upset and their nerves highly strung.

They are most anxious to behave well, and they are very curious to find out how, firstly, they *themselves* will behave ; secondly, how their comrades will behave. All this renders the Officer's voice, recalling the lessons he has taught them, of great service, making them understand that exactly the same is expected of them in action as on the manœuvre ground.

In taking his fighting line into action, a company leader must not merely give the distance and nothing more. His glasses should be out, and those of his subalterns, to note the range and the places where his fire will have most effect; his whistle ready to signal to his men to cease fire, whether to correct their range, or, in case they are getting at all flurried or unsteady, to prevent them getting out of hand, or, again, to concentrate his fire, or a portion of it, on certain points in the position his men are attacking.

In moving large bodies of Mounted Infantry through an open country, the screen of double Scouts, in touch with each other and with the flankers, will extend for miles.

Behind the screen will come the supporting and flanking sections, squadrons, or companies, and then the columns.

The Officer Commanding the Force will be riding near the column of direction, near enough to get quickly to the front in order to see with his own eyes when important reports come in, or when he wishes to study the lay of a fresh piece of country.

In and about the screen of Scouts and Flankers will be Officers in charge of selected parties of Scouts who will, under certain limitations, have a free hand as to their movements. These will be responsible for the more difficult part of the scouting, and they will send to the formed bodies of troops behind the screen if they require assistance in visiting such villages and houses, cramped and awkward country, etc., etc., as may fall within their sphere of operations.

Then we come to the Battalion Commander: it will be well for him, as a rule, to adhere to company

columns; as, for instance, in an advance of some miles to a point where a dismount is to take place and an attack commenced.

The Commander of the Battalion must be near and ahead of the company of direction. Freedom must be given to company leaders. All that is wanted is that they do not lose their position to too great an extent, and that they conform to the general direction and formation of the company of direction, and that they take plenty of interval so as never to "jam."

The general principles which govern the movements of Cavalry, *before* forming for the Attack, are more or less applicable to Mounted Infantry; but, as has been said before, the exactitude of distance, interval, and dressing which is required of Cavalry so as to enable it to get into line, *its* fighting formation, is not required of Mounted Infantry, who first of all require to dismount and get away from their means of transport.

If Mounted Infantry has to accompany Cavalry in an advance in an open country, its place would probably be in rear of the second line on the least exposed flank.

After tactical exercises the Commandant of the corps should accustom the company leaders to criticise, in his presence, the work done by their companies to their subalterns and their sergeants. Such a discussion will give him a good idea of how the system of instruction goes on, and of the capacities of his Officers.

After all exercises on the manœuvre ground the Commander himself should also, before his Officers,

and sometimes sergeants, and perhaps even his group leaders, criticise and give his opinion as to how the work has been done, and what faults committed and to be in future avoided. The criticism should never be dispensed with, and will increase the value of the work done tenfold. The Officers will criticise what has been gone through, the sergeants will talk about it in their mess, and the men will "yarn" about it in their barrack-room, with the result that a certain amount of knowledge will be got into everyone's head.

CHAPTER V.

SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT.

There would be great advantage if means could be found to provide a lighter saddle for Mounted Infantry, but the difficulty to overcome is to combine lightness with strength.

The present Cavalry saddle is the best which the British Army has ever had, and if a smaller size than the Mounted Infantry size could be made for actual ponies, nothing better could be wished for.

It must be remembered that a soldier, if he is to remain efficient, has to put a great many things on to his saddle, and any attempt to lighten the saddle-tree generally results in it being strained when the great-coat or cloak, waterproof sheet, the nosebag full, the mess-tin full, the bucket and rifle, the packed wallets, and, finally, the soldier, with perhaps 200 rounds of ammunition, is placed upon it.

Officers who join Mounted Infantry frequently grumble at the height of the cantle of a Cavalry saddle, as it takes time to teach the recruit Mounted Infantryman to swing his right leg high when mounting, but if you are to carry a "rear pack," *i.e.*, great coat or cloak, waterproof sheet, and picket peg securely, and in such a position that it will not injure the horse, there must be the height which the cantle gives to keep it off the horse's back.

This height becomes more valuable as the horse

loses in condition and lets the saddle down nearer his back and backbone.

It is of the last importance to get every ounce off the horse, and when rapid marching is required it is necessary to discard the "rear pack." The man's blanket can also be carried under the saddle instead of the saddle blanket.

This change lightens the horse's load considerably (roughly by 7 or 8 lbs.), but both men and horses must be watched, or sick men and sore-backed horses will be the result (unless transport can be provided for the cloaks).

We were the last nation clinging to cruppers, and the great majority of our Cavalry Officers declared against them some years ago. Those who, however, supported the retention of cruppers urged that it is not in peace time, when the horses are big and strong, when the well-filled-out and muscular shoulders keep the saddle in its place, that the crupper is required: it is when the troop horse has, by privation or hard work, lost his fine rounded shape, and when his lowered crest and withers and thin bodypiece allow the saddle to glide forward, and the girth, hardened by exposure and wet, to grind away at the flesh behind the forearm and elbow. For Mounted Infantry, who may be mounted on under-bred and short-shouldered horses, cobs, ponies, and even mules, a crupper is often of immense service, and it would be well to allow to Mounted Infantry 15 per cent. of these articles.

In any special patterns of Mounted Infantry equipment, the rifle-bucket must always be placed behind

the leg, so as to force the man to " draw arms " before dismounting ; otherwise it will occur that men will be disarmed by dismounting without their rifles, and then getting separated by some accident from their horses. A loop attached to the rifle for the arm to pass through, in order to steady the rifle, is very necessary, as then the man can be forbidden to hold his rifle when it is " returned." If he holds his rifle when it is in the bucket the man unconsciously rests some weight upon it, and this causes unequal bearing on the saddle and tends to sore backs.

The old pattern bridle has been lightened by adopting a reversible bit—what, in civil life, we term an *unjointed* Pelham ; but a certain percentage of bridoons should have been retained. Were it certain that Mounted Infantry were to be always mounted on docile and spiritless animals, a simple bridoon would probably be sufficient, but it often happens they may be provided with horses requiring control, such as the fiery Arab or Syrian stallion. With such the bridoon and the bit, being separate, is invaluable.

I am not in favour of the New Pattern Reversible Bit. If a Mounted Infantry or Army Service Corps, or even Royal Artillery horse can be held in a bridoon, by all means remove the bit. But if a bit is required, replace the bit, rather than seek a Hybrid Alternative. The old Universal Pattern bit, however (now Regulation for only the Cavalry), requires to be made in many more sizes.

The Unjointed Pelham, or Reversible Bit, with the rein in the cheek, tends to make the horse heavy-mouthed and the man heavy-handed. When the rein

is placed in the middle or the lower bar, the bit becomes a severe one, and there is no bridoon to change on to.

Arrangements for two men per section to carry a pioneer's tool, should be made. When rapid marching is required these must be collected and placed on a led horse.

When rapid marching is intended weight must at all hazards be got off the horses, and the articles carried on horse and man cut down somewhat as follows:—

On Man:

Ammunition—Revolver (?) Rifle; Haversack, Water-bottle

On Saddle:

Rifle Bucket, "Billy" or Mess Tin or Cooking Pot; Nose-bag; Picketting Gear.

Man's Blanket underneath Saddle.

Thus wallets and cloaks (or rear packs) are removed from the horse's back and relegated to the Transport, which should be of as light and mobile a nature as can be obtained or organized—if possible, two wheel-carts with mule or horse draft.

If money is no object a light waterproof cloak, cut high with the square all-round collar, and coming down to the ankles, will be of much comfort to the man and a great aid in the preservation of health. For sleeping in, both for warmth and for keeping the men dry, such coats are invaluable. A small towel and bit of soap and vaseline tin can be carried in the inside breast pockets, which should close with a strong button.

The men should never part with their jerseys, which can be fastened on the fans of the saddle when warm and dry weather renders their use needless. A woollen cap to sleep in should never be forgotten.

The Commander who is intending to move fast will try and bring led or spare horses with him—whether these are to be in rear of the force or definitely with the Transport, only their number and the exigencies of the moment can decide.

The spare horses should not carry saddles, but should have their bridles with head and sometimes heel ropes and nosebags complete.

If real rapid marching is to be accomplished, the use of the spare horses must be carefully and methodically carried out, and care taken that every horse in the ranks gets his proper turn of "light duty" as a led horse.

Regarding Officer's equipment, it will be found an advantage if Officers have their spurs, bit, bridoon irons, etc., nickelled; this adds greatly to the neatness of an Officer's turn-out on service.

The whistle carried must be shrill and powerful if it is to make itself heard in action.

A second watch, on the wrist, should be worn by all Officers and is a great convenience for timing occurrences, as it only requires a downward glance of the eyes, and the continual drawing out and putting away of the watch is obviated. An Officer is thus enabled to assure himself how time is moving without being noticed, and without giving, perhaps, the impression that he is anxious.

An Officer should have his two regulation sets of saddlery complete in every detail. Mounted Infantry

Officers are rather prone to break into patterns of Australian or Colonial bridles. This is a mistake. The Cavalry bridle of the English Army is the best extant in Europe, and only needs to have less metal in the bit. No second head-collar is required. You can unbit your horse without dismounting. If the throat-lash is broken, a wallet-strap will replace it. Altogether it is a thoroughly practical and workmanlike article.

On one of an Officer's chargers should be carried, on the fans of the saddle, a strongly made waterproof coat *cut to fit*, with high collar—long enough to touch the ankles, and provided with leg straps. On the other saddle carry the regulation cloak rolled in a waterproof sheet. In the near wallet of each saddle should be carried a small surcingle pad to use with the leather surcingle of the saddle when a horse blanket can be provided.

On one of your chargers carry the regulation saddle pockets or saddle bags, but do not overweight the charger you are actually riding.

In addition it will be found most useful to have two *joined* waterproof saddle bags, which can be thrown over the saddle of the horse you are *not* riding, or put on a pack animal if one is available, or put on a luggage cart.

Thus there are available two pairs of wallets, one pair of large waterproof saddle-bags, one pair of regulation saddle-bags.

If the space afforded by these articles is filled with judgment, a Mounted Infantry Officer can make shift without seeing his heavy baggage for many days.

CHAPTER VI.

CARE OF HORSES IN THE FIELD.

The art of making horses last while performing long journeys on perhaps indifferent fare day after day is one that requires great attention and considerable thought to acquire.

It certainly has not been acquired by many of our Officers of Mounted Corps, and more attention is required to this essential matter on which the efficiency—nay, the *existence* of mounted troops *as* mounted troops depends.

With British Mounted Troops it is generally the case that they are handicapped at the commencement of their active service by their horses having just gone through a sea voyage.

It cannot be too often impressed not only on Regimental, but also on General and Staff Officers, that if horses are worked after disembarkation before due time is given them to get hard, they are *ruined*.

It doubtless may be necessary that mounted troops may have to be disembarked and employed at once, but in this case it should be frankly recognised that the units thus employed will become dismounted in a very short time, and preparations for their remounting should be made at the same time as they are given orders to march.

It is immediately after disembarkation—one might

always say in the first half-hour—that the ruin of the troop horse is often commenced.

Both Officers, men, and horses are naturally much elated at escaping from confinement, and when it is disembarked the squadron or mounted company not unfrequently, it is feared, walk and trot gaily off to their camp, which may be some little distance from the point of disembarkation, as if no special measures or precautions were needed.

The General Officer or Commandant at the Base should have it impressed on all Staff Officers superintending embarkations of Mounted Corps that all the deliberation possible, absence of hustling, etc., etc., should be insisted on by his orders, wherever the horses are concerned.

If any Squadron or Company Officers seem to be in a hurry and to be inclined to bustle their horses off to camp, Staff Officers should speak at once in the name of his General.

If a Unit intact is disembarking, one of its Senior Officers should be present the whole time to watch and see that the orders affecting the horses are obeyed to the letter.

A "smart" embarkation over which the disembarking Staff Officer may be rubbing his hands and congratulating himself on how well he has cleared his troop-space, may have meant great mischief to the horses.

Let Staff Officers remember they may bustle dismounted corps without doing any harm that cannot be repaired, but the day of disembarkation of a mounted corps is a very critical moment, and every

possible weight must be thrown into the scale on the horse-management side. Horse-management considerations should outweigh all but military tactical necessities.

As has been said above, it is the first few hours during which it is most important that weight should not be carried by the horse, except for a very short time, and then at a walk. The weight or pressure of the saddle on the back for a certain time will do good, and it will compress and commence to re-harden the blood vessels of the back, which have been learning to overfill themselves during the voyage, but the progress from the ship side to the camp should be as funereal as the high spirits of the emancipated horses will allow, and with plenty of room between the various parts of the unit, so that horses shall not be able to harm each other. If a mount is necessary it should not last long, and however fresh and above themselves the horses are, any attempts at taking the stiffness out of their legs or getting their backs down should merit almost a court-martial, so disastrous is often the result.

However much trouble and time may be spent during the first day over the horses, and however much the Commanding Officer may be cursed in the prayers of those whom he is grinding to powder over the business during the first day and the first week after embarkation, he will be accounted blessed when his ranks are pleasantly full and his sick horse lines empty when real work begins.

After disembarkation, for the first three or four days, horses should be constantly watched by their

Officers, and no time or trouble should be spared at this critical juncture to prevent their being mismanaged.

It must be remembered that horses are in very troublesome high spirits after landing, and it requires careful supervision to see that they are not allowed out of a walk.

If the voyage has not exceeded about 14 days, after three or four days the danger of a horse going wrong speedily diminishes, and he is soon fit for light and *slow* work. Thus a mounted unit could, in case of need, march away from the Base after five or six days if it is treated as Infantry for the nonce—that is, if the length of the march is limited to a short Infantry march, and if the horses are led almost all the way, and, when mounted, kept at the walk.

When once the disembarked horse is got hard and given a fair start for his tour of active service, the energies of the Officer should be devoted to seeing he gets all the food possible, and that he is spared all unnecessary fatigue.

This last means that he is to carry as little as possible, and go as slow as possible.

The attention to grooming (which does not especially benefit unstabled horses) should be devoted to the above points, which may be described in detail somewhat as follows:—

To commence with "boot and saddle," care should be taken that horses are not saddled up too early, and above all that men are not allowed to mount a minute too soon.

Everything tells in a horse's day, and it is often

lamentable to tot up what might have been spared a hard-worked and perhaps underfed horse in a Unit where horse management is not made a study of.

Thus, hurried watering with perhaps a jog back to camp, a too early saddling up, and a too early mount; a "march off" and the "trot" sounding before the horses have emptied themselves, and at the various five or ten minutes' halts throughout the day, the men being allowed to sit them out instead of dismounting, and so forth throughout the day's work.

Thus the reverse of the above should be followed.

A. Horses saddled up not earlier than is necessary to admit of careful saddling.

B. The mount ordered when the unit is actually to march.

C. The trot ordered certainly not before a ten minutes' walk, and then not for too long.

D. At every halt an immediate dismount ordered.

Scouts and flankers should be taught to move out as slowly as is consistent with military necessities (which, of course, are all through admitted to be paramount).

Men, when acting independently, should be first checked and then punished (a) for moving at too quick a pace, or (b) for sitting on their horses when they could dismount.

It must never be forgotten that it is the pace that kills, and that it should be the effort of every Officer whose horses are doing hard work and who wants them to last, to keep them throughout the day from going at any time over six miles an hour, while moving at a walk whenever he can spare the time. This may seem slow, but if this rule is followed the Officer who

has thus been saving his horses will be able to "spring" them when necessity arises. The longer the distance to be marched the slower should the pace be.

The great importance of the rule not to sit on the horse unnecessarily is often not realised or understood; at any rate the rule is often neglected. It does not seem to be understood that the dismounted horse will rest and sleep, so that the time while he is dismounted may be cut out of his day's work.

It must be also remembered that besides allowing a horse to rest, when the weight of the man is removed from the horse's back the pressure on the small blood vessels in the back is relieved, and those that may have been getting crushed or bruised by the unequal pressure of a wrinkle in the blanket, or a badly fitting saddle—or, indeed, of a rider who is riding too much on one stirrup—get a chance of resuming their functions, and a sore back is perhaps saved.

A good punishment for carelessness in not observing rules which are made in order to save horse flesh is to order the offender to march for so many days, and if times are quiet enough to publish daily orders, the offender's name should be published in orders, thus:—

No. 2020 Private E. Johnson was deprived of his horse for two days for "sitting on his horse when he should have dismounted," or "for riding his horse at too fast a pace."

This increases the punishment, and acts as a deterrent by drawing attention to the offence.

When practicable the horse ought to be allowed to drink at all times as much as he wants, but when it

is a question of numbers this matter is necessarily governed by the considerations of time and space.

Scouts, flankers, and men acting independently should be taught to water whenever they can, and not to bustle their horses afterwards.

On arrival in camp, grooming to any great extent is bad for tired horses and tired men. A good roll, his ears pulled, and his eyes, nose, sheath, and dock sponged is what does good to a tired horse, and, as a special luxury, legs hand-rubbed.

Every man should answer as to whether his horse has staled or not, when he reports the horse's shoes and feet. In the case of geldings every effort should be made to get the horse to stale after a march. Mares and stallions give no trouble in this matter.

In peace time, if a morsel of ginger about half the size of an acorn be pushed into the rectum, the heat and temporary irritation thus caused will often have the desired effect.

On service, a bean or a small piece of wood chewed and dipped in pepper is a tolerably good makeshift.

In the field the success of the endeavour possibly depends as to whether the next day the horse is fit to travel, or whether he will not be worth the iron on his four shoes.

It is a good plan for men to be taught to report to their group or section leaders in case their horse has not staled.

His back must, of course, be carefully examined, and the Officer must feel any unevenness in the hair or sign of swelling in order to make sure how serious or how slight is the mischief.

Refolding the blanket to alter the pressure, the use of a salt and water pad, or a little carbolised vaseline are all makeshifts to deal with sore backs; the real secret is that prevention is better than cure—prevention by careful saddle fitting, careful saddling, and sparing the horse's back in every possible way.

If the horse is beat after his march, and, if spirit can be spared, a drench of spirit and water will often bring a beaten horse round; ¾ water to ¼ spirit. (Beer is better, but, of course, can scarcely be got except in peace time.) A pint drench to be given gradually.

A piece of hoop iron heated red hot in a camp fire, or, failing that, a few heated stones will warm the drench. A buckled wallet strap passed over a rifle between the muzzle and the cleaning rod, and then over the upper jaw, will enduce the horse to hold his head well up.

Cracked heel is another trouble which will often attack a delicate horse who is going to the bad, and the Officer, who is a careful horsemaster, will have saved some few pounds of bran for such cases. A *dry* bran poultice sprinkled with a few drops of carbolic acid often acts like a charm. A little carbolised vaseline (a little tin of which for his own and his horse's use should be in the possession of every soldier) may be put on the crack before the horse marches out next morning; if the horse can be put "in hand" for the day, so much the better.

If mange makes its appearance the horsemaster need not be dismayed if he can procure Sheepdip (Macdougal's), and use it 1lb. to the gallon of water.

This swilled on to the horse, who should be relieved of some of his mane, and in the winter of some of his tail, will soon stay the evil. If this remedy is not procurable, use train oil or paraffin with, if possible, sulphur; rub in when the sun is up, wash after 48 hours, and apply again. Effort should be made to increase and improve the food of mangy horses.

Every Mounted Company Commander should be able to take a horse's temperature. Of two dull-looking, tired horses, one may be only leg weary and a bit overdone after a hard day, while another may be on the verge of a serious illness, with a temperature of 104. Another day's hard work will kill the last, and only the thermometer will show the necessity of care with him. A few mashes with fever powders in them, light duty, and a few sacks to help to shelter the horse, will very likely give him the chance he wants to get round.

The Roman herdsman, the Spanish shepherd, and the South African Dutchman have all decided that there is something harmful to animals in some localities in the early misty dew, and in such parts where horses suffer from horse-sickness or sudden illness it is well to keep them with their nose-bags on during the night, and not to let them feed until the sun has dispelled the dew.

When rations are scarce, every effort should be made to get makeshift food in order to lessen the aching void which our four-footed comrades suffer from so much.

Horses must be grazed quietly and not to be constantly disturbed. Hard-worked horses hardly require to be knee-haltered; knee-haltering is objectionable if

there is water about, as horses drown easily if they get into water knee-haltered.

It must not be forgotten that however bare and burned up the surface of the veldt or pasture looks, there is often subsistance to be found in the various roots to be grubbed up.

In standing camps, or when troops are not marching, it should be remembered that in cold and severe weather a good blanket is worth per day to a horse at least a feed of corn, and thus helps to prevent him getting thin and weak. Horse blankets are luxuries which are very difficult to get hold of, but makeshift coverings of bits of tarpauling, sacking, etc., are sometimes procurable, and can be devoted to certain horses which seem going to the bad.

The above notes are confessedly incomplete, but it is the writer's intention more to bring the importance of the subject of " Care of Horses in the Field " home to Officers of mounted corps, so that it can be more taken up and studied as of vital importance, than to write an exhaustive veterinary treatise which would require perhaps more space, and certainly more knowledge, than is available to him. Officers must learn to study the question in peace time, or they will not be ready to deal with it on active service.

The writer would advise Company Commanders taking a small supply of horse medicines with them, a thermometer for taking temperatures, scissors, probe, plaster, bandages, a selection of compressed

medicines and fever powders (both for horses *and* men). They will take up little room, and will be almost sure to prove of infinite value in enabling him to keep men and horses in the ranks.

Some Officers have a natural sympathy for horses, and instinctively catch sight of the horse in their squadron, battery, or company who is being badly ridden, or whom something is worrying, or who is going wrong in some way or another. Such Officers as these are invaluable; they recognise their horses as individuals, and the animals benefit by the "master's eye." To such Officers there is little to say; but to others who have not the same quality one may urge that they should endeavour to attain the knack of knowing one horse from another by watching over their horses' welfare under the saddle and on the horse-lines—or get transferred to a dismounted corps.

As has been said before, military considerations may often necessitate all thought of horse-management being laid aside, and it may be necessary, in order to gain some military advantage, to sacrifice horse-flesh with recklessness; but even then those Officers who are good horsemasters will be found with horses fit and ready to make extraordinary efforts, while indifferent horsemasters will perhaps already have their cattle played out and useless.

CHAPTER VII.

EMPLOYMENT OF MACHINE GUNS WITH MOUNTED INFANTRY.

The galloping machine gun marks another step in advance in the development of modern warfare.

In the English service, up to 1899, we have been accustomed to its use generally as an auxiliary to the fire of infantry fighting in close formation against savage tribes.

Such will not be the use of the machine gun in European warfare or against a civilised foe.

The important place of the machine gun is with Mounted Infantry and Cavalry.

In the Mounted Infantry the organization of machine guns is laid down to be by sections of two guns, and the proportion of machine guns to rifles is a fraction more than six to 1,000. There is to a battalion of four companies of Mounted Infantry (about 600 all ranks) four machine guns.*

It will be readily understood that a great deal must be practised, and a great deal learnt before the efficient handling of machine guns with mounted troops is arrived at.

It is not enough for machine guns to trot or gallop about after Cavalry or Mounted Infantry, opening fire at rifle or carbine ranges.

* A wheeler should be added to the establishment of a corps of mounted infantry which possesses more than two machine guns.

The tactical handling of the guns must be carefully studied and practised, besides the training of the teams, drivers, and gunners.

All the machine guns, intended for use with mounted troops, should have pole and not shaft draught.

Woolwich adhered firmly to shaft draught for many years, while the Indian Government and foreign armies declared uncompromisingly for the pole.

It may be conceded that the shaft system is far neater; that the wheelers are worked in nearer their load; that the grasp of the wheelers is more powerful downhill; that the driving is more exact, and that over rough ground (though this is not universally admitted) shafts have their advantage over the pole; and that turning and reversing is more easily accomplished.

There still remains, however, to the credit of the pole system the advantage it gives at the most dangerous crisis a gun in motion can pass through: a wheeler brought down, killed, or disabled!

There is no comparison of the time needed to extricate a dead or disabled horse, and to hook in a fresh one in pole-draught, with the time required for the same operation in shaft-draught.

All this is well known to Artillery Officers, but not so well understood by Officers of other arms, and it brings us to our point regarding pole-draught for machine guns.

Machine guns, in action, must be pushed boldly to the front, and will far oftener have to submit to Infantry fire than will Artillery guns; therefore

casualties among the horses must be expected and provided for. The teams must be unhooked quickly, which cannot be done with shaft-draught and shaft harness.

As the machine gun carriage has only two wheels, there should be a "leg" or support on hinges underneath the pole, to let down when the team is unhooked.

As the teams will be frequently changed, breast straps, and not collars, should be employed.

In some countries it may be necessary to have recourse to pack equipment for the machine guns; but the two-wheeled carriage will usually be the system adhered to, especially as there would always be plenty of extra horse power available in case of difficulty.

The S.A.A. carts should carry certain wheeler's tools and other equipment, as well as ammunition.

The rifles of the drivers should be strapped on the gun carriage boxes and on the carts.

All the riding horses should have breast straps, so as to be able to hook in when required.

The saddles of the men on the gun carriage boxes should remain on the hand horses, leathers crossed and irons strapped together by centre wallet strap, traces running under the surcingle and outside the girths.

There should be special instruction in driving, in order to teach men the first principles and to give them confidence.

A driving *manège* should be marked out, and a very few lessons will enable the guns to be taken on

to parade. The necessity of always watching the traces to see both horses do their share of the work must be impressed on the drivers, and also of not jerking at the draught either starting or on the move.

If two pairs are hooked in, the lead driver must take care to give a fair sweep in all turns, so as not to upset or hamper the wheelers, and to keep his traces slack going downhill.

The wheel driver must learn to keep his distance from the leaders, to keep his horses well collected when the ground is falling, to drive exactly after the leaders, and to be ready for any sudden change of pace or direction.

Although no pains are to be spared in thoroughly training the gun detachments, on no account must the machine gun organization be permitted to become a *battery* apart from the remainder of the corps. As many men and horses as possible should be trained to the work. It may not be possible to teach all the men to drive, or to pass all the horses into the teams, but about one man per Group should understand the working of the machine guns, and there should be, say, four spare teams, with drivers, per gun ready trained.

Certain rules which govern the use of Artillery are also more or less binding on machine guns; for instance, while in motion they are powerless, and therefore, once in a good position, should not be moved until the last moment.

In the Attack the *rôle* of machine guns is an important one. They fill a gap between the most effective fire of the field gun, and the most effective fire of the rifle.

In practising the Attack, the sound tactical working of machine guns must be carefully watched. A good position, oblique to the general line of advance, should be, if possible, found at effective range from the enemy's position. There the machine guns and the escort must take up position as early as possible to assist the advance.

The great difficulty, which always clogs the use of the machine gun firing S.A. ammunition at "extreme" ranges is, that it is so hard to discover whether the range has been obtained.

To this the attention of the Officers in charge must always be directed, so that lead may not be pumped away into space.

Sometimes a hint can be obtained from the Artillery—sometimes a machine gun throwing a shell can assist—sometimes sandy or dusty patches will throw up some signs of the bullets striking.

These aids, combined with the judicious use of range finder and telescope, are often all needed to throw light on the subject.

In coming into action the Officer in charge of the guns should try his utmost to bring them up unobserved.

He should leave them well behind and get forward himself cautiously to look round and get the range, and choose exactly the positions.

Arrangements to screen them should be made *before* the guns are brought up, and he will consider it advisable, if he is in touch with the enemy, to unhook out of sight and fire, and work his guns up by hand.

If he is in touch with the enemy he must act as if strong glasses were searching his position, and must act accordingly in order to deceive and confuse the enemy as to his intentions. If he is observed, it may be well to order the preparations for opening fire to be proceeded with, with perhaps some slight increase of bustle, and to go off himself to some other position, where he will be able to make his arrangements in peace, and to which he will be able to transfer his guns when he is ready for them.

Without moving the guns too frequently, the Officer in command should seize every chance, as the fighting line advances, of pushing his guns forward, and getting to close quarters to help the fighting line, moving a certain proportion of his guns forward under cover of the fire of the remainder.

Risk of losing guns should not deter him remaining in action when his fire is doing execution and rendering service. It is better to lose guns honourably than to save them when, by being in action a few minutes longer, success in another part of the field might have been assured, or a retreat covered.

Directly the position where he is to come into action is reached, the Officer should see if he has not time and opportunity to improve it; ten minutes' spade work will do a great deal towards covering and hiding his guns and teams. He must not keep his escort close to the guns, or in too close a formation, and must remember to have patrols and scouts looking out for him on his flanks and rear.

In all situations Mounted Infantry must be especially careful not to be surprised by Cavalry, and

especially must there be constant watchfulness on flanks and any dead ground in front by scouts, and, if necessary, patrols while the guns are in action.

If the Attack succeeds the machine guns must reach the position almost simultaneously with the fighting line, so as to make good the success.

When in a defensive position the Officer commanding the machine guns should take care to make his fire as effective as possible, morally as well as physically. He should make note of any open spaces the attacking force has to cross, and get some idea of the range by sighting shots with one gun, while perhaps his other guns are actually employed on the enemy. Sudden and violent resumption of fire partakes of the nature of sudden attack or surprise, and is most discouraging to the enemy, who has been congratulating himself on the lull which has taken place, and has probably imagined he has silenced his adversary's guns. Thus, before an enemy has reached a spot where the Commander of the machine guns intends to attack him, it may be well for him for a time to cease fire, and get his guns carefully trained and ready for opening a sudden and rapid fire.

In manœuvres and before coming into action, the position of the machine guns should be in rear of the Mounted Infantry companies on the least exposed flank.

In action, however, the machine gun must not be tied down tactically to the rifle.

It should be the aim of the Officers commanding the machine guns to keep the gun carriage boxes always full of ammunition. The ammunition carts

should always, when practicable, be drawn upon for ammunition, and the gun carriage boxes left untouched. One ammunition cart should, if possible, be drawn upon at a time—if this can be done without confusion or crowding. Directly an ammunition cart has been emptied, it should be despatched in search of an ammunition column to refill.

CHAPTER VIII.

MOUNTED INFANTRY IN AN ADVANCED GUARD ACTION.

In order to bring home to us the probable use of Mounted Infantry in European warfare, let us suppose that the Advance Guard of an Army Corps, composed of, say, nine squadrons, two Horse Artillery batteries, one company Engineers* an Ambulance Detachment, and three battalions Mounted Infantry with their machine guns, have been brought up by an enemy's force, barring the route. The Commander of the Advance Guard has made up his mind not to stop, as he knows the General is anxious to reach a certain position to his front, and he has also pretty certain information that there is nothing overwhelming in front of him. His batteries come into action on some high ground about 3,000 yards from the enemy's position; ten guns are directed against the enemy's Artillery (his Cavalry has been driven in), while two guns are firing on a body of the enemy's Infantry, which is seen advancing to some ground some little distance, say, half-a-mile, in front of his (the enemy's) main position. The Officer commanding the Advance Guard orders the Officer commanding the Mounted Infantry to threaten the enemy's main position, detaching a company and machine gun section to accompany

* Carts or other means of transport being provided for dismounted men.

eight squadrons, which are to attempt a turning movement against the enemy's left flank.

The Officer commanding Mounted Infantry has already been at work with his telescope, and has turned over in his mind what he had best do. He gets his commanding Officers together, details the company and machine gun section to accompany the squadrons from the 3rd Battalion.

He then details the 1st Battalion Mounted Infantry for fighting line, supports, and reserves, and No. 2 Battalion as second line; pointing out the general line of attack, and the objects they are to advance upon. He details the 3rd Battalion to furnish a company as escort with the remaining machine guns, and two companies as third line.

About 900 yards in front of where his corps is now standing in column, more or less sheltered, appears to be a sharp dip in the ground, which looks as if it would give good shelter to his horses. This dip is pointed out, and the captains of the companies composing the fighting line and supports are directed to take the companies of the fighting line at a gallop and independently to this place, section by section in loose and extended order, or group by group, as seems best, according to the severity of the fire; dismount and commence the attack, leaving their horses (to be held subsequently by men detailed by the companies of the reserve) thus protected by the ground. Directly the fighting line has commenced its advance the supports will, one after another, cross the 900 yards to the dip at a gallop and advance. In like manner the reserve companies will be brought up,

and will set free the horse-holders of the fighting line and supports, taking charge of the horses of the leading companies.

In the meantime an advantageous position towards one of the flanks, and about 1,200 yards distance from the enemy's position, has been found for the machine guns, and the Officer in command is directed to move them off by the most sheltered route he can find, and open fire, two guns on the Infantry and two guns on the enemy's Artillery, if he can make good enough practice against the gunners—using the rifles of his escort in the same way—endeavouring to cover the advance of the fighting line.

The above movements are well carried out.

After an hour the fighting line is about 800 yards from the enemy's Infantry, who has turned out to be stronger in that arm than was expected—the balance of the fire being only partially restored by the four machine guns and the fire of their escort. However, from the enemy's left flank, musketry and the crack of the machine guns are heard, and in a short time it is evident that the enemy's Infantry is trying to disengage itself and withdraw.

We will not follow this hypothetical case further; enough has been said to give an idea of the way Mounted Infantry may be handled in an advanced guard action. It may, however, be here pointed out what a different business this supposed skirmish would have been had Infantry instead of Mounted Infantry been employed.

To begin with, this affair would have taken much more time—the attack would naturally have developed much more slowly, the Cavalry of the van-

guard would have had to wait patiently for the Infantry to come up, the guns alone being able to trot forward, on the news being sent back to the main body of the Advance Guard that they were wanted. Great difference would also show itself afterwards.

After the combat, and when the Commander of the Advance Guard would be anxious to push on again, the Infantry would wish for a little time to get their breath and recover themselves; then, as the excitement died out, it would be found that a good deal had been taken out of them by the hurry up to the front, the deployment, and the action; and the resumption of the march would be, probably, a leg weary and plodding affair.

Whereas, in the other case, where Mounted Infantry were employed, the action would commence with the Mounted Infantry being at hand, as they would have trotted up with the guns, and could go into action as soon as was considered advisable, and there would be no delay.

After the action the companies in second line would move on at once, while the remainder, directly the losses had been ascertained and the wounded disposed of, would trot after the main body and regain their distance in front of the column, which would not have been checked.

The foregoing may be taken as an example of the employment of Mounted Infantry in the Advance Guard.

In a general action a Commander will not needlessly employ his Mounted Infantry if Infantry is

available, but will keep them in hand. He will reserve them in order to reinforce, speedily, Infantry which has succeeded in getting some slight footing in a weak point in the position attacked, relieving them with Infantry as soon as practicable; or he will send them in pursuit with his Cavalry, or to assist Cavalry in a turning movement, real or feigned; or, lastly, in case of a reverse, he will use them to assist him to disengage his Infantry and to cover his withdrawal from the position.

Although Mounted Infantry provided with horses has generally been referred to in these pages, it should not be supposed that Mounted Infantry is limited to this animal.

Let it be assumed that the nucleus of the Mounted Infantry, organised and trained as such, is mounted on small horses; but in the theatre of war this force might be increased by Infantry provided with whatever material for transport could be procured.

Thus, with a certain object in view, Infantry might be attached to the Mounted Infantry of an Army Corps mounted on country carts, bullock drays, donkeys, camels, or any other means by which men may be kept unfatigued and can be moved speedily.

For centuries there have been conflicting opinions as regards Mounted Infantry. "Opinions," says the classic Jomini, "will always be divided as to those amphibious animals called Dragoons."

In this generation foreign Officers have been

generally of opinion that Mounted Infantry are nearly as expensive as Cavalry, and not nearly as efficient, and it is reported that the foreign Officers who accompanied the British Army in South Africa held similar views.

Against this it may be advanced that many of the Mounted Infantry at the commencement of the war were very indifferently trained (if trained at all), and it may be doubted whether if the same Officers now saw our war-tried and war-trained Mounted Infantry companies under the leadership of the able Commanders of mounted troops, which the war has brought to the front, they would not change their opinions.

Be that as it may, the "Dragoon" is strongly represented in the Russian Army, while in Germany experiments in Mounted Riflemen are being made both in the VIIth Corps and in the XIth Corps.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the General who possesses a strong body (in proportion to the force he commands) of quickly-moving Infantry, has an increased chance of being the stronger at the important point, at the critical moment.

At the commencement of the South African War the capacity shewn by the Boer leaders for receiving their of necessity slow-moving adversaries' flank attacks as frontal ones was frequently shewn.

To quote Jomini once more: "It cannot," says he, "be denied, however, that great advantages might result to the General who could rapidly move up ten thousand men on horseback to a decisive point and bring them into action as Infantry."

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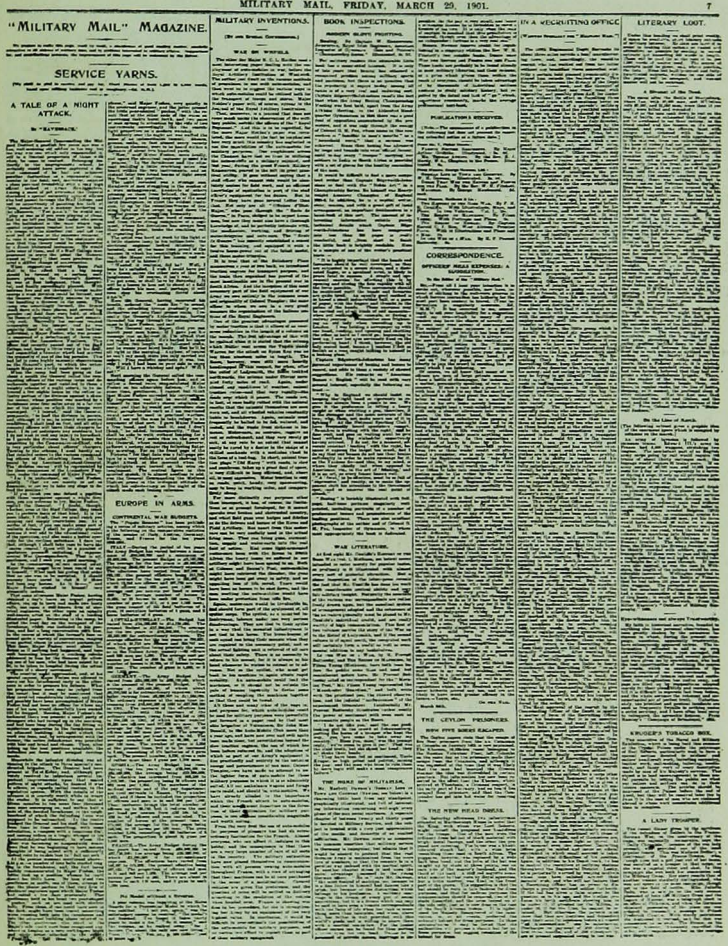

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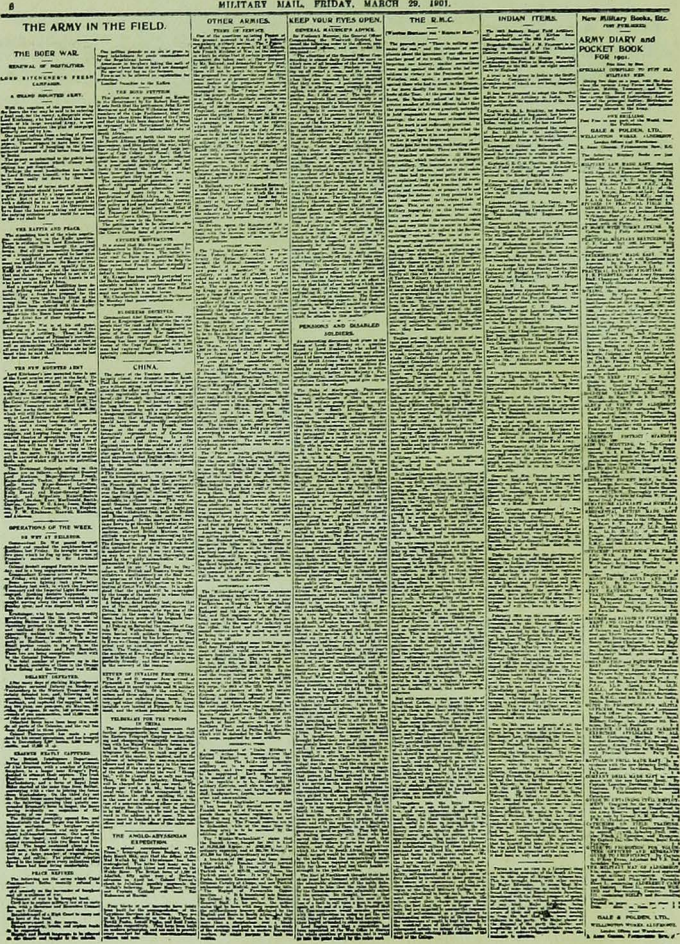

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